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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/066,040	02/01/2002	David Michael Goldstein	R0038H-CON	3728

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW DEPT., MS A2-250
PALO ALTO, CA 94304-9819

EXAMINER

STOCKTON, LAURA LYNNE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1626

DATE MAILED: 10/25/2002

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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DATE MAILED:

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

OFFICE ACTION SUMMARY

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on July 26, 2002

☒ This action is FINAL.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 D.C. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s) ~~whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).~~

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 and 19-32 ☐ are pending in the application.
Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 12 and 32 ☐ are rejected.
- ☒ Claim(s) 8-11, 13-16 and 19-31 ☐ are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
- ☐ received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of Reference Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES--

10/066,040

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-16 and 19-32 are pending in the application.

Rejections made in the previous Office Action which do not appear below have been overcome.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-7, 12 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Faraci et al. {WO 94/13643}. WO 94/13643 is in the same patent family as U.S. Pat. 5,712,303 which is listed on the 1449 Form.

Determination of the scope and content of the prior art (MPEP §2141.01)

Applicants claim pyrazole products. Faraci et al. teach pyrazole products that are structurally similar to the instant claimed pyrazole products. See in Faraci et al., for example, wherein A is $-C(=O)$, R_1 is amino, R_2 is alkyl, R_3 is phenyl substituted with a acetyl-alkyl group and R_4 is halophenyl (pages 1 and 2). Also see, for example, the products on page 36, line 10; page 40, line 15; page 43, line 19; and page 44, lines 12-14. Faraci et al. teach that the pyrazole products are useful in treating disorders such as inflammatory disorders and immune suppression (page 5, lines 1-12).

Ascertainment of the difference between the prior art and the claims (MPEP §2141.02)

The difference between the products in the prior art and the instantly claimed products is that of generic description.

Finding of prima facie obviousness--rational and motivation (MPEP §2142-2413)

The indiscriminate selection of “some” among “many” is *prima facie* obvious. The motivation to make the pyrazole products derives from the

expectation that structurally similar products would possess similar activity (e.g. an anti-inflammatory).

One skilled in the art would thus be motivated to prepare products embraced by Faraci et al. to arrive at the instant claimed products with the expectation of obtaining additional beneficial products which would be useful in treating inflammatory disorders. Therefore, the instant claimed products would have been suggested to one skilled in the art.

Response to Arguments

Applicants' arguments filed July 26, 2002 have been fully considered. Applicants argue that the substituents represented by the instant R^3 variable do not overlap with the substituents that can be substituted on the phenyl ring (R^3 variable) in Faraci et al.

In response, Faraci et al. do teach substituents which overlap with the substituents represented by the instant R^3 variable. See, for example, the instant (b) and (k) definitions in R^3 in claim 1 and the products on

page 36, line 10; page 40, line 15; page 43, line 19; and page 44, lines 12-14 of Faraci et al. Therefore, the rejection is maintained.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8-11, 13-16 and 19-31 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable over the art of record if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

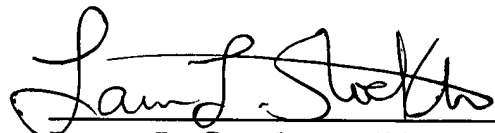
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened

statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura L. Stockton whose telephone number is (703) 308-1875. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:00 am to 2:30 pm. If the examiner is out of the Office, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph McKane, can be reached on (703) 308-4537.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-4556.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura L. Stockton', written over a horizontal line.

Laura L. Stockton, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1626, Group 1620
Technology Center 1600

October 23, 2002